

# The Global Child Friendly Cities Initiative

International Secretariat for Child Friendly Cities

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence

Children and Youth in the MENA Region: Addressing Priorities in Education

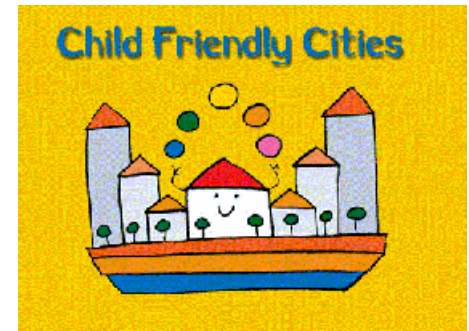
Dubai, May 16-18, 2005



UNICEF  
Innocenti Research Centre

Eliana Riggio  
16-18 May 2005

# Child Friendly Cities



*“A Child Friendly City promotes good local governance  
in favour of children’s rights”*

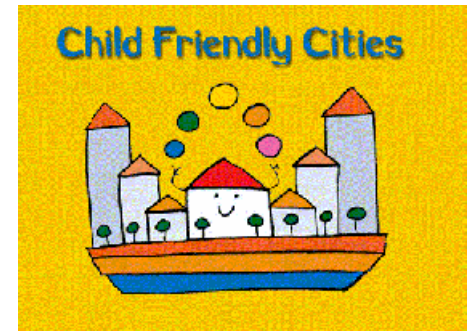
Local systems of government have the statutory powers and duties to hold stakeholders responsible for implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child

# The Child Friendly Cities Initiative



- The Child Friendly Cities Initiative has evolved from the “Mayors Defenders of Children” movement (1990s), to the Istanbul Summit (1996), to the Special Session on Children (2002)
- *A World Fit for Children*, “By building on child-friendly communities and cities without slums, mayors and local leaders can significantly improve the lives of children”
- As a follow-up to the SSC, in *The Sarajevo Commitment* European and Central Asian nations have pledged to “encourage local authorities and communities to make their cities ‘child friendly’ in respect to infrastructure, access to services, safe living environments and involvement of children in local decision-making” (May 2004)

# CFC Global Initiative



**The CFC Initiative spreading globally both in North and South**

**Municipal governance systems transforming to address child rights**

# The International Secretariat for Child Friendly Cities

A clearing house for the CFC Initiative  
at UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (Florence)





## Activities

*to distil the experience and articulate principles in a CRC framework*

- ↑ **Data gathering** and analysis of local innovations for and with children
- ↑ **Information exchange** to support the development of CFC processes
- ↑ **Fostering networks and partnership building** with key local and global players

# CFC Secretariat



## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- **CFC Framework for Action - 9 Building Blocks to a CFC**

➔ *A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR POLICY AND ACTION*

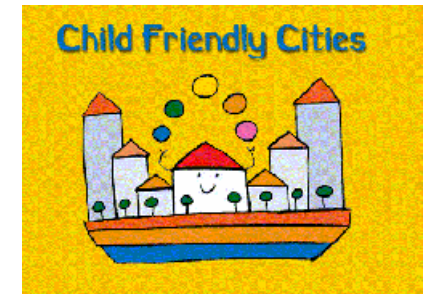
- **Database** - projects and publications
- **CFC Toolkit** with examples from CFCs world-wide
- **CFC website** in 3 languages (English, Spanish, French)
- **Publications** - including a *Digest*

➔ *AVAILABILITY OF ANALYSED INFORMATION*

- **Partnerships** with mayors and local authorities, research institutions, experts, journals, UN & specialised agencies and programmes, UNICEF FOs and NatComs, children

➔ *INSTITUTIONAL AND TECHNICAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH KEY PLAYERS*

# CFC – An Integrated Framework for Fulfilling Children’s Rights



- CFC – a holistic, integrated framework to implementing children’s rights at the local level, where children live and can participate genuinely
- CFC – a framework for developing a vision of the city we want from the view point of children
- CFC – a preventive approach where children are perceived as resources, not problems
- CFC – a tool for identifying problems affecting groups of children and discriminations - and address these within a broad framework

# CFC Framework for Action



## The 4 Guiding CRC Principles

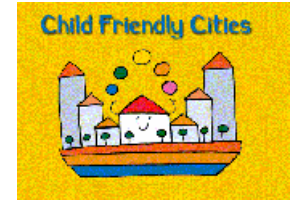
Non-discrimination (Art. 2)

Best interests of the child (Art.3)

The right to survival and development (Art.6)

Respecting children's views (Art. 12)

# CFC Framework for Action



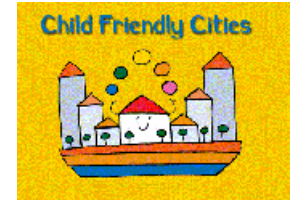
*Reached consensus with partners on a common framework for building CFCs*

## 9 Building Blocks to a Child Friendly City

• BLOCK 1. Involving children & respecting children's views

- BLOCK 2. A child friendly normative framework
- BLOCK 3. A child friendly institutional framework
- BLOCK 4. A situation analysis of the city's children
- BLOCK 5. A city-level plan for children
- BLOCK 6. Children's budgets
- BLOCK 7. Child policy impact assessment
- BLOCK 8. Making children's rights known
- BLOCK 9. An independent advocate for children's rights

# CFC Framework for Action



## ***9 Building Blocks to a Child Friendly City***

### **BLOCK 1. Involving children and respecting children's views**

Promoting children's active involvement in matters that affect them, listening to their views, taking them into consideration in decision-making processes - a necessary condition for developing a CFC.

Children's participation is the very essence of the process of building cities and communities friendly to children.

Young people's participation- both an activity and a method in CFC that must inform all the 'Building Blocks', i.e., all the steps in the process of creating a CFC.

# CFC Framework for Action



## *9 Building Blocks to a Child Friendly City*

### **BLOCK 2 A child friendly legal framework**

Ensuring that legislation, regulatory frameworks and procedures consistently promote and protect the rights of all children.

Local authorities must ensure that the policies and programmes developed in the Municipality are rooted in the principles of the Convention to avoid that these are patchy and therefore discriminatory in nature.

### **EXAMPLE: Kawasaki**

# CFC Framework for Action



## *9 Building Blocks to a Child Friendly City*

### **BLOCK 3. A child friendly institutional framework**

Developing permanent structures in local government to ensure priority consideration of children's perspective

High-profile institutional mechanism within the Municipality to implement, coordinate, evaluate the strategy / CLPOA

Coordination among departments and central / local / neighbourhood governments so that the interest of children does not get lost between govt depts

### **EXAMPLE: Spain**

# CFC Framework for Action



## *9 Building Blocks to a Child Friendly City*

### **BLOCK 4. A situation analysis of the city's children**

Ensuring sufficient monitoring and data collection on the state of children and their rights

CFCs keep a constant check on the state of their children

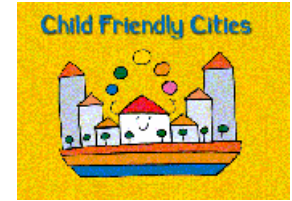
Disaggregated data on children necessary to highlight discrimination

State of the City's Children Report

Children as researchers – involved in evaluating, assessing needs, proposing solutions, preparing the report

**EXAMPLE: London**

# CFC Framework for Action



## *9 Building Blocks to a Child Friendly City*

### **BLOCK 5. A city-level plan for children**

Developing a detailed, comprehensive strategy or agenda for building a Child Friendly City, based on the Convention

NPAs based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. City-level Plans of Action linked to NPAs

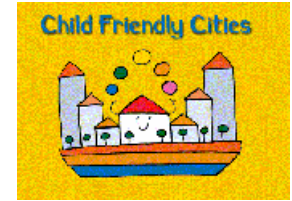
CLPOA purpose - to fulfil the non-discrimination principle of the Convention

CLPOA – a unified, rights-based approach to all services for children at city-level identifying achievable goals & targets

CLPOA – a unifying focus in a cross-government exercise

CLPOA – engages children and all other citizens **EXAMPLE: Italy**

# CFC Framework for Action



## *9 Building Blocks to a Child Friendly City*

### **BLOCK 6. Children's budgets**

Ensuring adequate resource commitment and budget analysis for children

CRC – to implement rights of children ‘to the maximum extent of available resources’

Budget analysis to determine how well the city fulfils this obligation

Ensure that young citizens - especially disadvantaged children – get their fair, ‘maximum’ share of resources

**EXAMPLE: Barra Mansa, Brazil**

# CFC Framework for Action



## *9 Building Blocks to a Child Friendly City*

### **BLOCK 7. Child policy impact assessment**

Ensuring that there is a systematic process to assess the impact of law, policy and practice on children – in advance, during and after implementation

To ensure that the best interest of the child is of primary consideration in all actions concerning children.

The Municipal government can not know unless assessments are carried out

Child Impact Assessment

**EXAMPLE: Philippines**

# CFC Framework for Action

## *9 Building Blocks to a Child Friendly City*



### **BLOCK 8. Making children's rights known**

Ensuring awareness of children's rights among adults and children

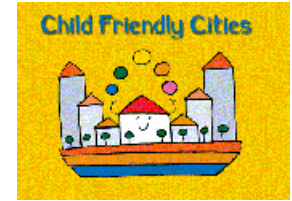
Human rights, including children's rights, must be 'widely known to adults and children alike' to be useful

Children's rights in education – both in school curricula and in the ethos of schools

Partnerships with NGOs, youth groups and media

Children can advise municipal governments on how to promote CRC in the city

**EXAMPLE: occupied Palestinian territory - CMC**



# CFC Framework for Action

## ***9 Building Blocks to a Child Friendly City***

### **BLOCK 9. An independent advocate for children's rights**

Supporting non-governmental organisations and developing human rights institutions – children's ombudspersons or commissioners for children – to promote children's rights

Recently, independent human rights institutions have been established in several countries worldwide.

A Municipal government committed to building a CFC should be held responsible for the way children live in the city.

A local level ombudsperson for children - more accessible to young people than a national one and help the city keep on track on implementing the Convention at the level that is most relevant to children.

### **EXAMPLE: Moscow**

# International Secretariat for Child Friendly Cities

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